

The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill and the amendment recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILEN-SON], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 146 is the rule for the consideration of H.R. 614, a bill to convey the New London National Fish Hatchery to the State of Minnesota.

This is an open rule. It provides for 1 hour of general debate, to be divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. After general debate, the bill will be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill and the amendment recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides for a motion to recommit.

This underlying bill will convey the New London Fish Hatchery to the State of Minnesota, which has been operating the hatchery since 1983 when the Federal Government decided to discontinue operations. Minnesota assumed operations to ensure that the State's fish stocking program would continue into the future. The hatchery plays an important role in the walleye and muskie stocking program.

To date, Minnesota has spent nearly \$800,000 on operations, maintenance, and improvement of the facility and has a strong interest in making certain capital improvements on the facility, but without ownership, they are, understandably, reluctant to do so. This bill would transfer all right, title, and interest in the hatchery so that the State may make those improvements. Should the State discontinue operations, ownership returns to the United States with the understanding that the facility be returned to the Federal Government in equal or better condition than it was at the time of transfer.

This rule provides for fair, open debate and is brought up under an open rule at the request of the chairman. Some Members may wonder why this bill is coming up under an open rule

rather than coming up on the suspension calendar.

During consideration of the bill by the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, two amendments were offered by members of that subcommittee. While the first amendment was adopted, the second amendment was rejected by voice vote. This rule will allow that amendment to be brought up on the floor for consideration by the full House.

The amendment, offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], would require the State of Minnesota to pay the Federal Government the fair market value for the fish hatchery facility at the time of transfer. Since amendments can not be offered under suspension of the rules, Congressman Miller would have been prohibited from offering his amendment on the floor. This open rule will protect the right of Members to bring important issues to the floor by allowing that amendment, and any others, to be offered on the floor for consideration by the full House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this rule. It provides for fair consideration of a bill that is very important to the people of Minnesota, and at the same time it protects the rights of Members to offer amendments for consideration by the full House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILEN-SON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule, which the Committee on Rules reported for a noncontroversial bill. We support the rule, and we urge our colleagues to approve it today.

The Committee on Rules heard testimony last week about the non-controversial nature of H.R. 614, which transfers ownership, without reimbursement, of the New London Fish Hatchery to the State of Minnesota. We were told that the State of Minnesota wants to preserve this property and is willing to make improvements and implement long-term plans if it can assume ownership.

This is just one of several fish hatcheries, formerly operated by the Federal Government, that the Fish and Wildlife Service plans to transfer to States, all without reimbursement to the United States for the land, equipment, and buildings at the hatchery sites.

The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] may offer an amendment to the bill that would require the State of Minnesota to pay the Federal Government the fair market value of the property.

Under this rule, the amendment is in order, as is any other germane amendment. Our colleagues will be able to hear Mr. MILLER'S arguments for requiring an appraisal of this and the other fish hatcheries being transferred to States that are evidently using them, very successfully, for State recreational purposes. His amendment

will also require the State to pay the Federal Government the fair market value of the property.

Mr. Speaker, again, we support this open rule and urge our colleagues to approve it today.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 584, CONVEYANCE OF THE FAIRPORT NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TO THE STATE OF IOWA

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 145 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 145

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 584) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a fish hatchery to the State of Iowa. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELLER). The gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILEN-SON] pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 145 is a very simple resolution. The proposed rule is an open rule providing for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources.

After general debate the bill shall be considered as read for amendment under the 5-minute rule. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Resources, Mr. YOUNG, requested an open rule for this legislation. The open rule was reported out of the Committee on Rules by voice vote. Under the proposed rule each Member has an opportunity to have their concerns addressed, debated, and ultimately voted up or down by this body.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey a Federal fish hatchery, this time located in the State of Iowa in Fairport, IA. For the last 22 years the State of Iowa has operated the facility. And at this point in time the State would like to upgrade the facility, but is unable to justify the expense of the improvements without having legal title to the property.

H.R. 584 would transfer ownership of the hatchery and immediate property and buildings to the State of Iowa. The bill is supported by both the State of Iowa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and it was reported out of the Committee on Resources by voice vote.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for any amendments to be brought up. We understand that a similar amendment to the preceding legislation that was just discussed may be offered, but under the open rule all Members will have the opportunity to have their voices aired, discussed, and voted on.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this open rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is, as the gentlewomen pointed out, an open rule for a noncontroversial bill. We support the rule, and we urge our colleagues to do the same.

We also support the objective of the bill, H.R. 584, to convey the fish hatchery to the State of Iowa, which has been operating it for several years now.

We do have some concerns about transferring this property to the State of Iowa, which has been using the hatchery very successfully for State recreational purposes, without reimbursement. The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], who is the ranking member on the Resources Committee and its former chairman, may offer an amendment to the bill that we think deserves the attention of our colleagues.

Mr. MILLER raised several important points in his dissenting views on this bill. He questioned the give-away of Federal assets to the State of Iowa without reimbursement to the Federal taxpayers for their investment, especially since no one knows the true value of the property—there has been no appraisal of the buildings and land since 1983.

His amendment would require an updated appraisal of this property that

has a choice location and a commercial potential that could result in significant revenue for the United States. Mr. MILLER's amendment would also require payment of fair market value by the State to reimburse Federal taxpayers for their investment.

Under this open rule, Mr. MILLER and any other Member may offer germane amendments such as this one.

Again, we urge our colleagues to approve this rule for the bill conveying ownership of the Fairport Fish Hatchery to the State of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 535, THE CORNING NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 144 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 144

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Corning National Fish Hatchery to the State of Arkansas. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill and the amendment recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 144 is another open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 535, legislation directing the Secretary of the Interior

to convey Corning National Fish Hatchery to the State of Arkansas.

Specifically, this rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate is completed, the bill will be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill and the amendment recommended by the Resources Committee now printed in the bill shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 144 will permit the House to consider legislation sponsored by our colleague, Representative BLANCH LAMBERT LINCOLN, to convey the Corning National Fish Hatchery, which is located in Corning, AR, to the State of Arkansas.

As will be described in more detail later, the State of Arkansas assumed control of the fish hatchery from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1983, when it was closed as a result of Federal budget cuts. Currently, no Federal funds are being used to operate or maintain the hatchery. It is my understanding that the State is now interested in making capital improvements to the facility, in addition to long-term plans for its use. However, the State is hesitant to do so without first obtaining title to the property.

H.R. 535 would facilitate the transfer to the State of Arkansas of all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property of the Corning Fish Hatchery. An amendment adopted during subcommittee consideration of the bill would ensure that these rights and interests will revert to the United States if the property is used for any purpose other than fishery resources management.

Mr. Speaker, let me take just a moment to respond to those who might question why we are considering this legislation under a rule at all, rather than under suspension of the rules. As our colleagues know, suspension of the rules is an effective tool for considering relatively noncontroversial legislation in an expedited manner. Debate is limited to just 40 minutes, and bills considered under suspension are unamendable on the floor of the House.

During our Rules Committee hearing on the bill last week, we discussed the possibility of at least two amendments to H.R. 535, including one to be offered by the sponsor of the bill, and one by the ranking minority member of the Resources Committee requiring the State of Arkansas to pay the Federal Government the fair market value of the Corning facility at the time of transfer. Under suspension, any such floor amendments would be prohibited. Under this open rule, however, an open amendment process is guaranteed. Any Member can be heard on any germane amendment to the bill at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 535 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Resources by voice vote, as was this rule